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ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



PASA FAHO is a TEN DAYS productions feature film written and directed by Kalu Oji, produced by Mimo Mukii and Ivy Mutuku. Principal production and development funding from Vicscreen, in association with SBS, North South East West, Melbourne International Film Festival Premiere Fund, Screen Australia, and Arenamedia.













Director's Note

Like a baby giraffe learning to run, I hope this film finds its way into the world with clunky grace.

These faces, scenes, and stories have circled the skies of my mind for many years. This script is a series of questions, the characters' vessels to explore them. For 85 minutes in the dark of the cinema, I hope to have a conversation with the audience. A conversation they can carry home and share with the ones they hold most dear.

At the centre of this story is a relationship between father and son; Azubuike and Obinna. In many ways they are alike, though there is a valley of differences between them that will not let them realise this just yet. Their relationship, like many, is complex.

The title of the film takes its name from a play on words.

Parts of a whole.

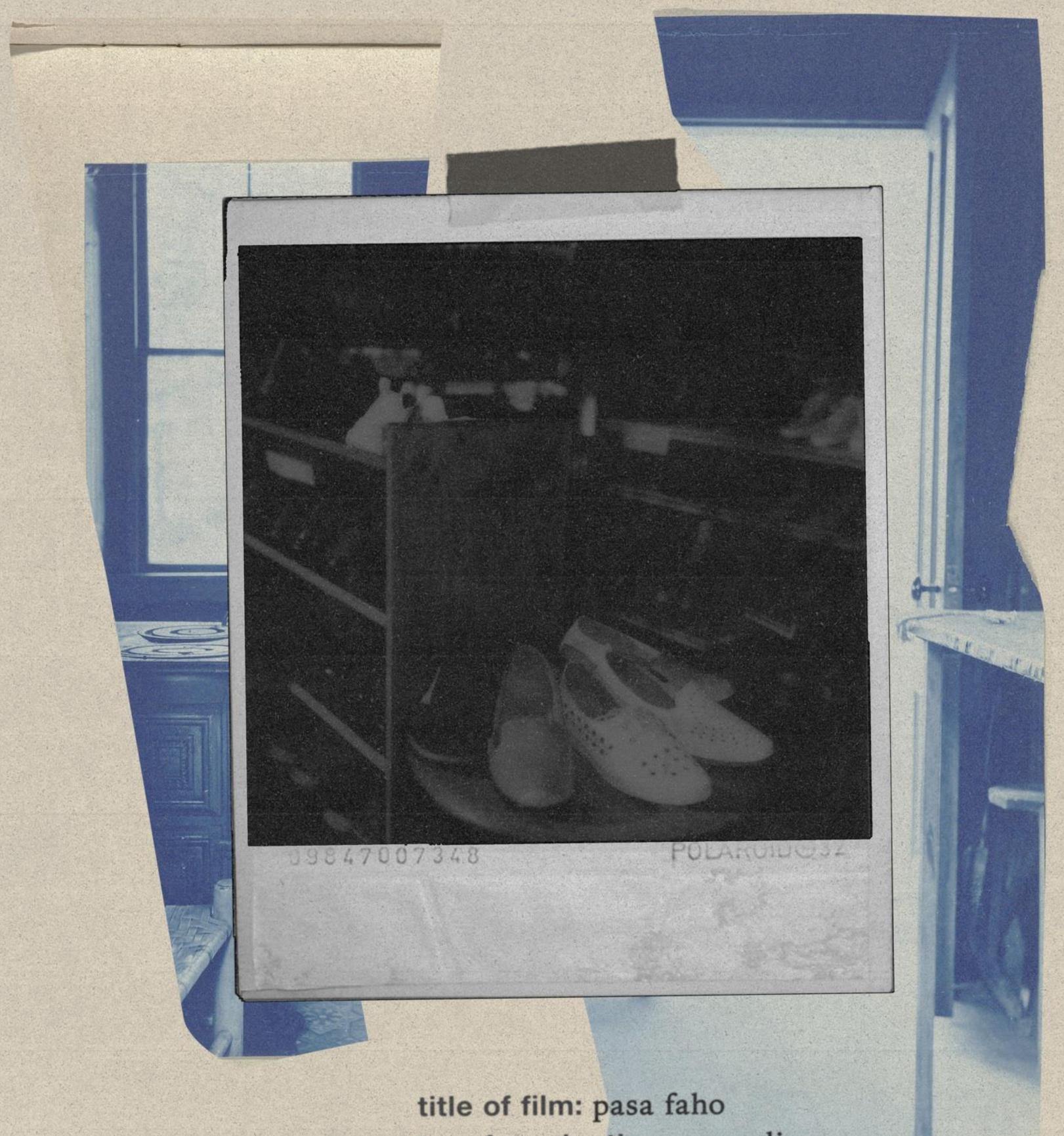
This film is not just about Azubuike and Obinna. It is about an expansive community, and the most primal of feelings that exist within each of us. It is about the pride of a man who has never been told that his vulnerability can be his greatest strength, and the confusion of a child navigating homes in which they permanently feel a guest.

It is the desires we sew into the dreams of the ones we love. It is an attempt to show this love without knowing the words to express it; to accept loss when we've never felt permission to grieve.

As 'Pasa Faho' rises to its feet and opens its eyes to the world for the first time, I will be waiting in great anticipation, deeply proud of what we have accomplished so far and equally excited to see the life it is yet to live.

Nka bu nke anyi,





title of film: pasa faho
country of production: australia
date of completion: december 2024
shooting format: 24fps / 4.5k LF 3:2 Open Gate
screening format: dcp and pro res available
ratio: 16:9 DCP

sound: dolby digital 5.1 theatrical

runtime: 86 minutes genre: comedy-drama language: english, igbo





SHORT SYNOPSIS

Azubuike is a charming shoe salesman who is just making ends meet. When his 12 year old son, Obinna, moves across the country to live with him, the estranged pair struggle to find stability in an already turbulent time. With the news that Azubuike's shop is to be sold to developers, the two must find answers or risk losing more than just the shoe shop.

LONG SYNOPSIS

12 year old Obinna has just moved across the country to live with his proud, and once prosperous, shoe-selling father, Azubuike. Despite Obinna's lack of excitement, Azubuike sees their reunion as an opportunity to guide his son into adulthood. After all, it is only right that a father must teach his son the values of what it means to be a man; an Igbo man.

With the help of Obinna's aunty Amaka, an aspiring lawyer, Azubuike begins preparing his son for the new life ahead of him. His new pet goat (Lazzi), a pair of new shoes, and a new routine cause a stir of emotions for Obinna. Trouble soon strikes as it's revealed that Azubuike's shop is to be sold to developers. With Obinna's arrival demanding more of his attention, the timing could not be worse. He must find a solution, and quickly.

Amaka begins taking Obinna to church, led by fellow countryman, Edward. It's in Edward's daughter, Liberty, that Obinna reconnects with his first friend. Suddenly life is not looking so bad. Azubuike is struggling to keep his shop from going under, and in a great show of pride, he decides that he is going to try and buy the land himself.

As Azubuike's situation worsens, Obinna is growing more comfortable in this new environment. Bonding with Amaka, she reveals to him a deep secret of her own - that she has been delaying her graduation, struggling, unsure if the path she has walked is the path she truly desires. Then comes the news that changes everything; it is the church that is buying the land.

Azubuike confronts Edward and Obinna sees his father explode for the first time. They are isolated now, withdrawing from the community and receding further into the shell of their own world. For a moment it is peaceful and a new connection seems to be brewing between the two. However, small mistakes lead to friction during an already heightened time, and when Obinna accidentally spoils a fortnight's worth of groceries Azubuike decides they are to finally kill Lazzi for meat.

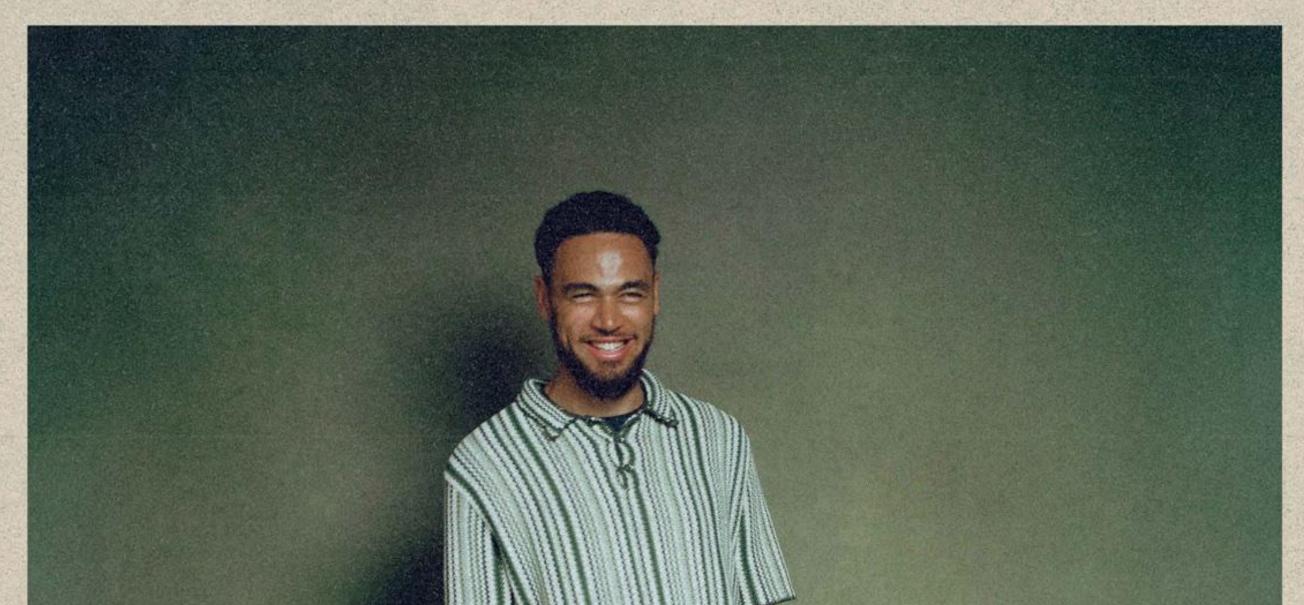
With options running out and seeing his father retreat deeper into the shell of the man he had once been, Obinna takes matters into his own hands. On a gloomy Sunday he steals the money from the church's safe, presenting it to his father in a fit of tears and rage. Azubuike, sobered by Obinna's act, is presented with a dilemma far greater than the material loss that has plagued him up until now. In Obinna's eyes he sees a son that is beginning to resent his father.

Azubuike must make a decision - act, or risk losing more than just his shoe shop.









Kalu oji

WRITER/DIRECTOR

Kalu Oji (he/him) is an Igbo-Australian filmmaker, writer and visual artist.

His entry into the broader filmmaking community came with his graduate film, 'Blackwood'. Screening at festivals such as Palm Springs Shortfest and the BFI London Film Festival, Kalu picked up awards such as the Filmmaker To Watch Award (Atlanta Film Festival, 2019) and the Luggi Waldleitner Award for Best Screenplay (Filmschoolfest Munich, 2019).

His follow up short film, 'The Moon and Me', premiering at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, before being acquired by the Museum of African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco where it found its eventual home.

Kalu's most recent short film, 'What's in a Name?', marked a shift in approach, building on unconventional writing and performance techniques. 'What's in a Name?' won the AFTRS Craft Award (for innovation in Screenwriting) at the 2023 Sydney Film Festival, and Best Direction in a Short Film at the 2024 Flickerfest Festival.

iwy mutuku

PRODUCER

Ivy Mutuku is a Kenyan-born filmmaker and visual artist based in Naarm (Melbourne), renowned for her innovative work in multidisciplinary art and visual storytelling. She graduated with honors from Swinburne University of Technology, earning a Bachelor of Film & Television. In March 2023, Ivy was honored with the "Visual Artist of the Year" award at the Amari Gala, a prestigious celebration of African-Australian achievements.

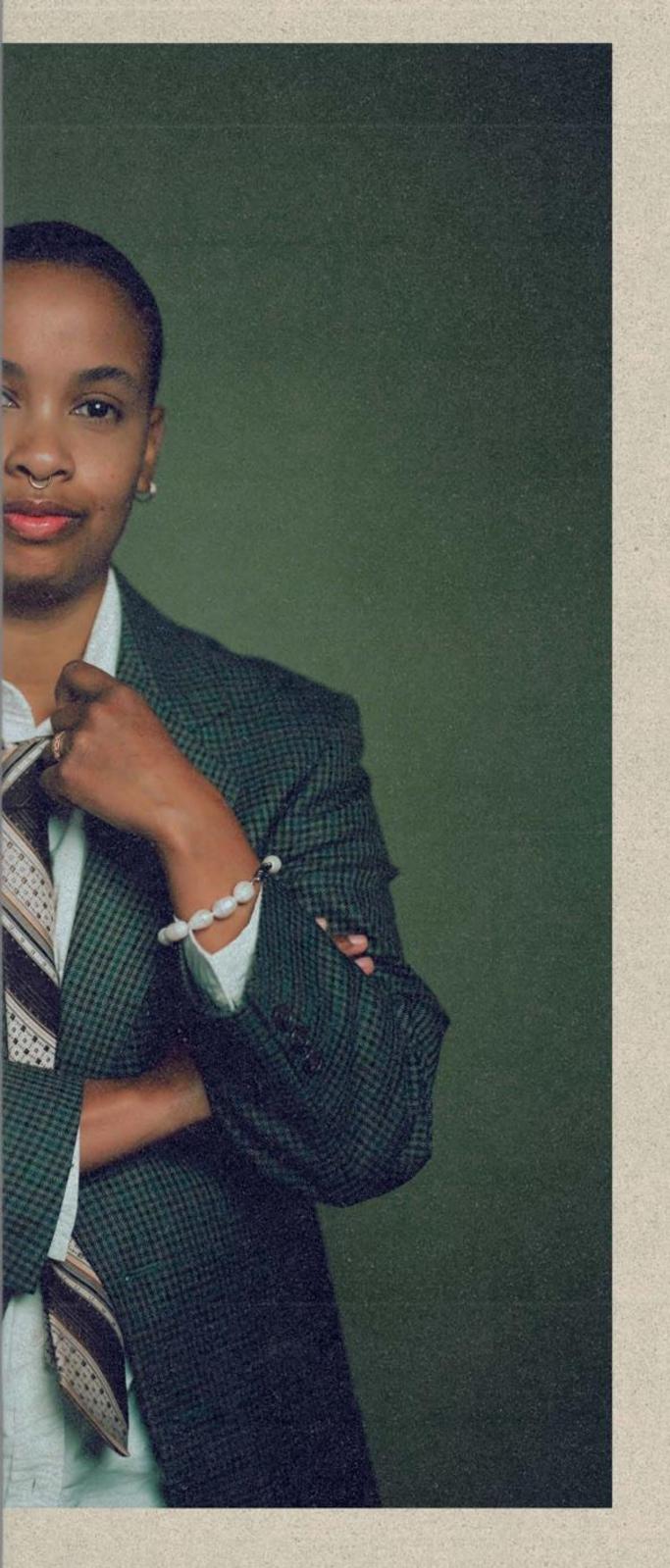
Ivy's artistic practice transcends traditional boundaries, offering a profound exploration of human life through everyday experiences. Her debut project, FRIZZ, won the Bank of Melbourne's Under 25's Overall Winner at the Victoria Multicultural Awards. Her short film The Way She Looks earned the Local Emerging Art Prize at the 2022 Wyndham Art Prize, while her visual poetry piece BLUE HOUR was featured at the Beyond the Lights projection festival in 2021. Additionally, The Moon & Me, a film she produced, was showcased in the Beyond The Sky exhibit at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. Her producing work on What's in a Name? premiered at the Sydney Film Festival 2023, where it won the AFTRS Craft Award for Best Practitioner.

Beyond filmmaking, Ivy's storytelling extends to photography and curatorial projects. Her first exhibitions, Afro-Futurism and NEW, were displayed at the Wyndham Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Victoria. More recently, she made her curatorial debut with Between Us, an exhibition that examines the importance of platonic relationships and their often-overlooked yet essential role in our lives. Ivy's work continues to push creative boundaries, offering fresh perspectives on identity, connection, and the human experience.











mingukii producer

Mimo Mukii (they/them) is a producer living and working in Naarm (Melbourne). They are a member of the film collective and production company TEN DAYS. Pasa Faho is their first producer credit on a feature film, and they have produced many narrative short films, including the award-winning Blackwood (BFI London Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival), TUĪ NÁ (Melbourne International Film Festival, Iris Prize Film Festival), and What's in a Name? (Sydney Film Festival, Flickerfest).

Mimo graduated from RMIT University with a Bachelor of Media and Communications (Honours), where they wrote about self-representations of African-Australians in television and web series, and they have a certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping. They freelance in the film and television industry in the accounts and production departments, and are currently undertaking a one year Vicscreen Screen Internship where they will be working at Vicscreen, ABC and GoodThing Productions.

okey bakassi

"AZUBUIKE"

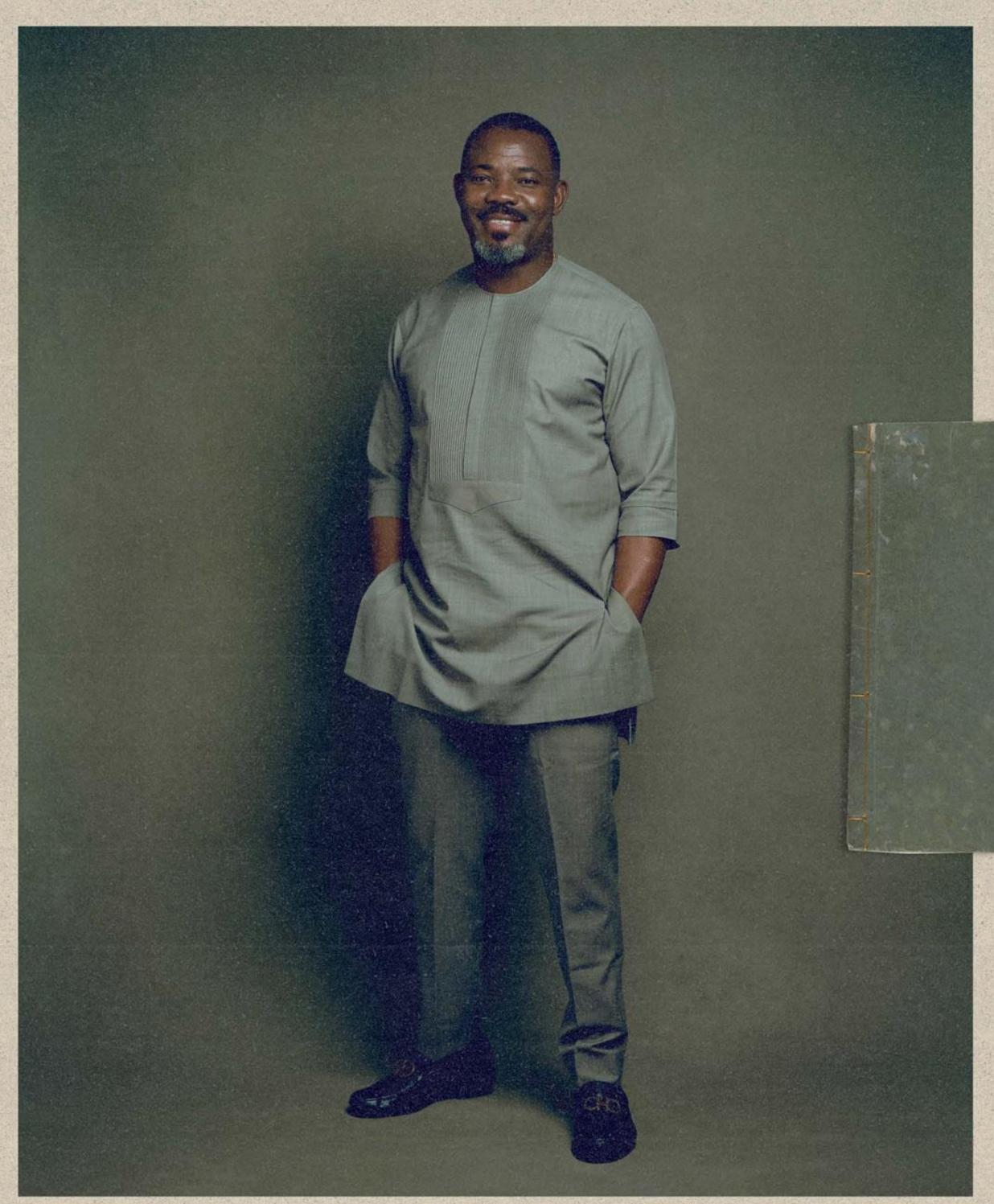
Okechukwu Anthony Onyegbule, widely known as Okey Bakassi McAnthony, is a prominent Nigerian stand-up comedian, events host, and Nollywood actor with over three decades of industry experience. He has hosted notable programs like The Other News on Channels Television and the radio comedy talk show It's OK with Okey on Lagos Talks 91.3FM.

A celebrated actor, Okey won the "Best Actor in a Leading Role (Igbo)" at the 2014 Best of Nollywood Awards for his role in Onye Ozi (The Messenger) and has appeared in over 70 films, including Bank Alert, Badamasi (Portrait of a General), and Onye Ozi. On TV, he plays Mr. Nduka in the sitcom My Flatmates and hosted African Knock Out, Nigeria's first Mixed Martial Arts reality show.

A founding figure in Nollywood, Okey has significantly shaped the Nigerian entertainment industry, holding key positions in organizations like the Actors Guild of Nigeria and the Movie Directors Guild.

He co-founded the iconic comedy concert Nite of a Thousand Laffs and hosted major events such as the inaugural Star Mega Jam.





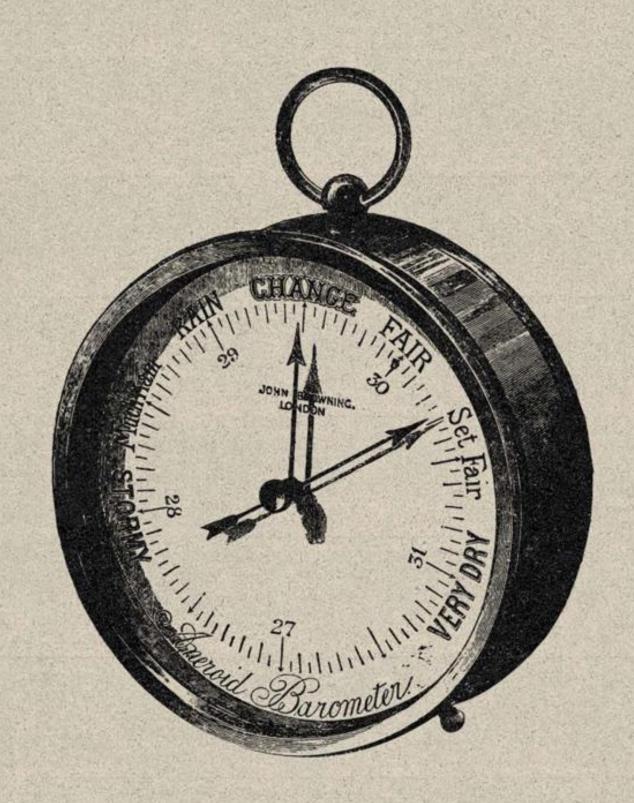


tyson palmer "OBINNA"



Tyson Palmer is an exceptional young actor whose career is quickly gaining momentum, with standout roles in Young Rock (two seasons), Rock Island Mysteries, Occupation Rainfall, Harrow, and Pine Gap. His latest performance as lead Obinna in Pasa Faho showcases his incredible ability to bring depth and nuance to complex characters. Tyson's portrayal brings authenticity, vulnerability, and a striking emotional resonance to the character, further solidifying his reputation as a gifted and versatile actor for years to come.





I: What do you hope audiences take away from the story of Azubuike, Obinna, and their journey together?

K: Azubuike and Obinna were my way of exploring a handful of different ideas that sit very close to my heart. The goal was to present a perspective, or perspectives, and invite the audience into a conversation.

At the centre of the film is a relationship between father and son, and like most other works of fiction it's intended for entertainment. I want the audience to invest in these characters, in their storylines, to feel all the highs and lows, and to enjoy the overall viewing experience. On the other hand, the themes embedded throughout are intended to act as a launching pad for larger conversations.

How does one parent a child in a cultural context so far removed from their own? How does one navigate a home environment in which they inherently feel a guest? The truths uncovered in these excavations are what I hope the audience will leave the cinema with. By using Azubuike and Obinna - Amaka, Edward, Bogo, Liberty, and all of the other characters that exist in the world - I hope to illustrate the complexity of these identities and for 'Pasa Faho' to inspire a dialogue that I have not yet seen on screen.



Q&A

an excerpt of a conversation with dir. Kalu Oji



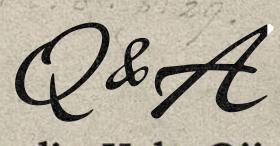
I: How did you work to authentically represent the cultural nuances in the community scenes, such as the church service and interactions in Igbo?

K: It was important for me to represent the culture as honestly as I could and I felt a deep sense of responsibility within that. Understanding my positionality in relation to the story and characters was my starting point first and foremost. This meant accepting the limits of my own knowledge, inviting the actors in - both Igbo and not - to take on their roles with both hands.

I had a lot of conversations with each of the cast, sharing with them what I hoped to capture in their scenes, and being open to any offerings they had. From casting to shooting we were working together to find the most honest, effective, and exciting way to communicate these ideas.

Additionally, because I was striving toward a certain style of 'naturalism' and because a lot of the cast were first time performers, a big part of my role was making people comfortable and confident in front of the camera. To demystify the filmmaking process. When we started rolling I wanted them to feel free to express themselves, not just as if they were following words on a page.

18 INT. CHURCH - HOT SUMMER'S DAY The church is packed to capacity, people standing by the sides of the isles. The congregation is primarily Nigerian. On the stage stands EDWARD, 45, clearly a compelling orator. EDWARD (PREACHER) Let me tell you a story. A story I've heard. A story of a farmer who found fortune one year through the most plentiful harvest. This wasn't a king, or a prince, or an aristocrat. This was a simple farmer who was suddenly confused for now he was faced with a new question, 'where am I to store all of my beautiful harvest?' After thinking for a while the man decided, 'I shall tear down my barns and I shall build bigger ones. That is what I shall do. There is where I shall store my 'I will have grain for many years. I shall take life easy - eat, drink, and be merry'. And what do you think God said to this man? Amaka and Obinna enter, jostle into one of the isles.



an excerpt of a conversation with dir. Kalu Oji

!:

The opening image of a burning tree in an empty field is visually striking. What inspired this choice, and how does it set the tone for the story that follows?

K: From the onset I knew I wanted to have a certain poetry run through the film, and there were versions of the script where that had been much more present. Part of the writing process was landing on the right balance for this. The opening itself was something that I struggled with right up until the end of development - how to best introduce the story, how to land on an introduction that felt honest to myself as a filmmaker whilst serving the vision as a whole.

I drafted a bunch of different ideas and tried a bunch of different styles but nothing felt right. Working with my peers in development I realised I was thinking too literally, and so I was pushed to recalibrate. 'How might you introduce the film's themes and capture the essence of the story in a non literal way?'A eucalyptus tree. Burning in an empty field.

For me it is an image that encapsulates Azubuike and Obinna's journey; the need to go up in flames in order to start again, the contrast of an image so beautiful yet so full of destruction, the notion of roots holding oneself in place... all the parallels to biblical iconography. It was the one. Whether or not the audience is able to pull out all of these ideas is not the end goal. The image itself adds a texture that is essential to understanding the layers within this film.



VFX: BURNING TREE/STARRY NIGHT CLEAN UP & REMOVE FENCES



Q&A

an excerpt of a conversation with dir. Kalu Oji

I: The gift of the goat and its fate brings in a poignant yet humorous humorous yet poignant scene. Can you share the intent behind this moment and its deeper meaning?

K: Is a goat food? Is a goat a pet? This is one of the threads that had been in the script since very, very early. As the whole film is exploring how two people relate to each other when their cultural centres are not aligned, the conversation of goat ethics brings a very relevant (and I think, very real) representation of those differences. Even watching the film now with audiences it's one of the scenes that brings vastly different responses. Nigerians, Africans, broadly anyone who grew up in a culture with those attitudes toward 'pets', and a shrug. Anyone who grew up with a headspace more aligned with Obinna will wince and squirm. It's encourage a discussion.

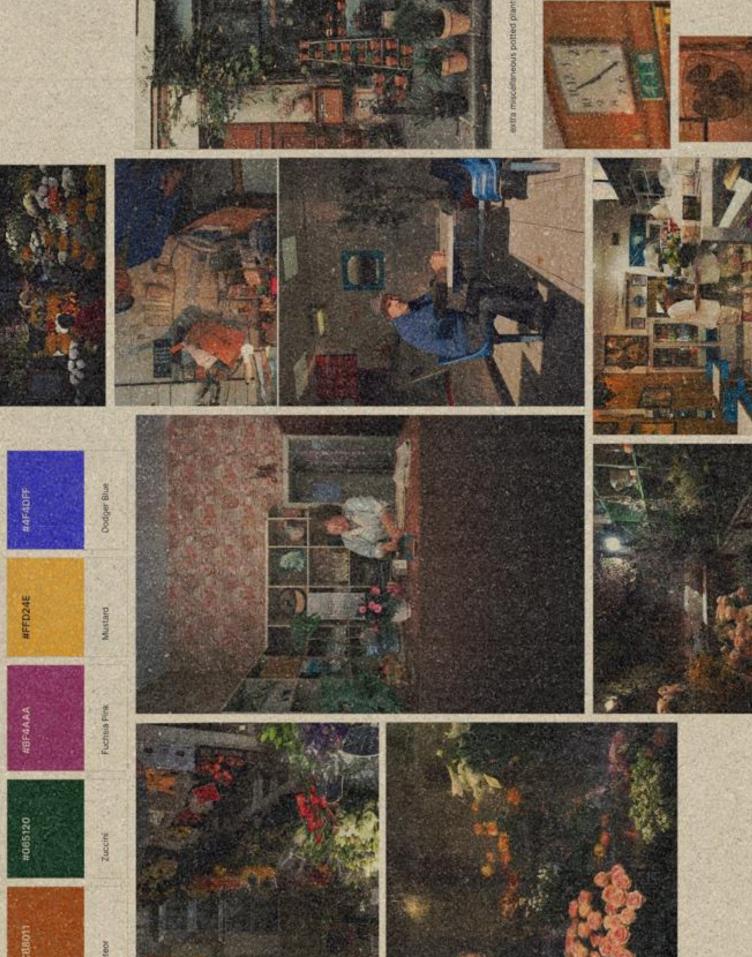




Agubuike's Store Stop







Mythos Petals - Combining the rich mythology of Greece with the delicate nature of petals.

Elysian Florals - Referring to the Elysian Fields, a conception of the afterlife that is beautiful and peaceful, much like a garden.

Mount Olympian Gardens - Drawing from Mount Olympus, home of the gods, suggesting divine beauty and grandeur.

Hellenic Blossoms - Emphasizing the connection to Greek (Hellenic) culture and the natural beauty of its landscapes.

Glorgos, an eccentric character full of heart that shines through his colourful florist. He has taken care to deck out his shop with DIY hand painted signs of eclectic styles and fonts and colours.

Not an artist but a very practical man who has tried out various styles over the years to adorn his florist. He does not care for modern trends and aesthetics and looks at the more practical side of things.

Same sort of feet for Azu's shop in terms of admin management, paperwork everywhere but somewhat more hidden, drawers are stuffed but paper work has been partially put away











Yorgos' Flower Stop





XXII









- FAITH PLATES THE STEW & RICE, WOMEN DISCUSS ABOUT CHIAMARA'S
GAP YEAR







- NNEKA STIRS BOWL, LAST MINUTE PREP







- AMAKA ARRIVES GREETS EVERYONE

- AMAKA TRIES ONE DISH





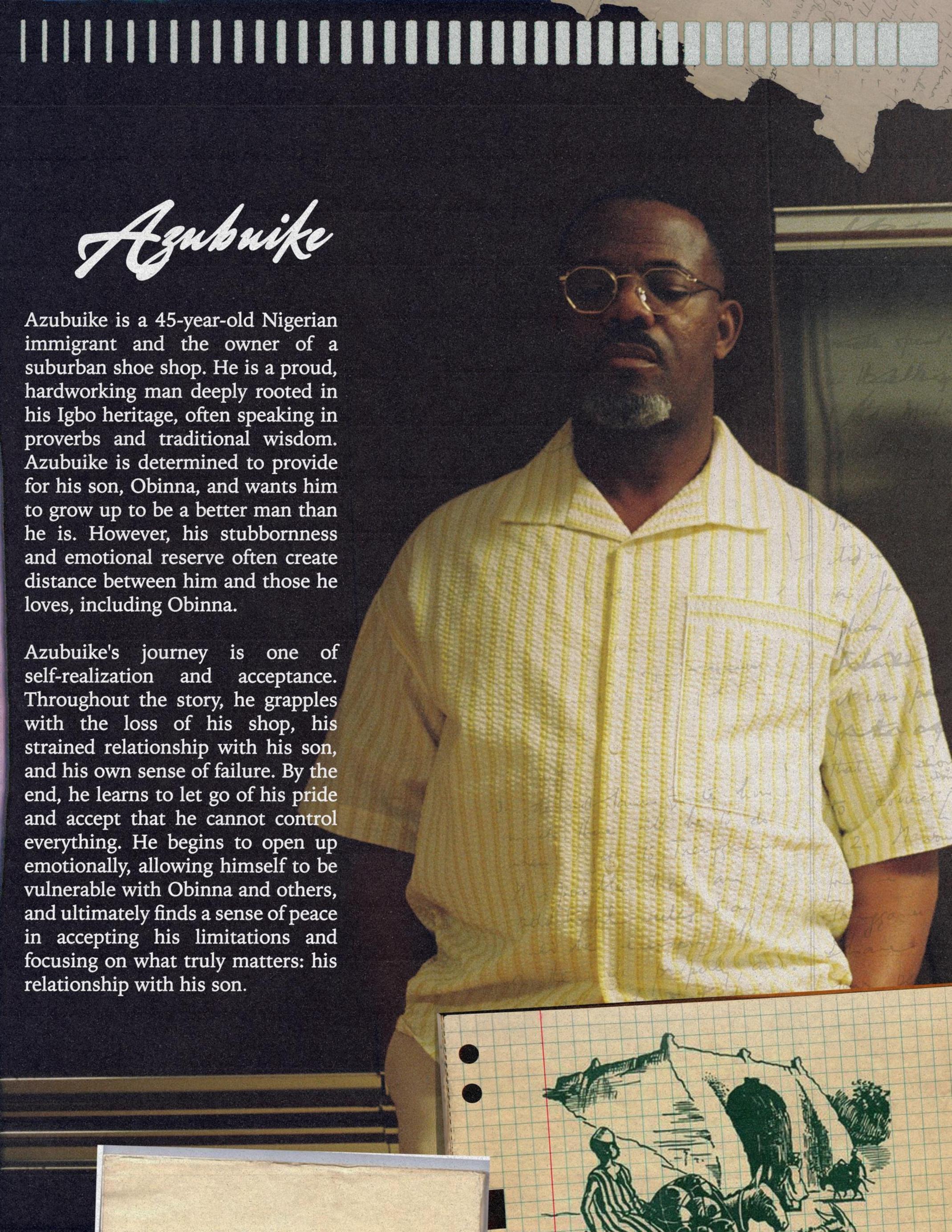


- NNEKA GRABS CHING WRAP, TALKS TO AMAKA ABOUT UNIVERSITY



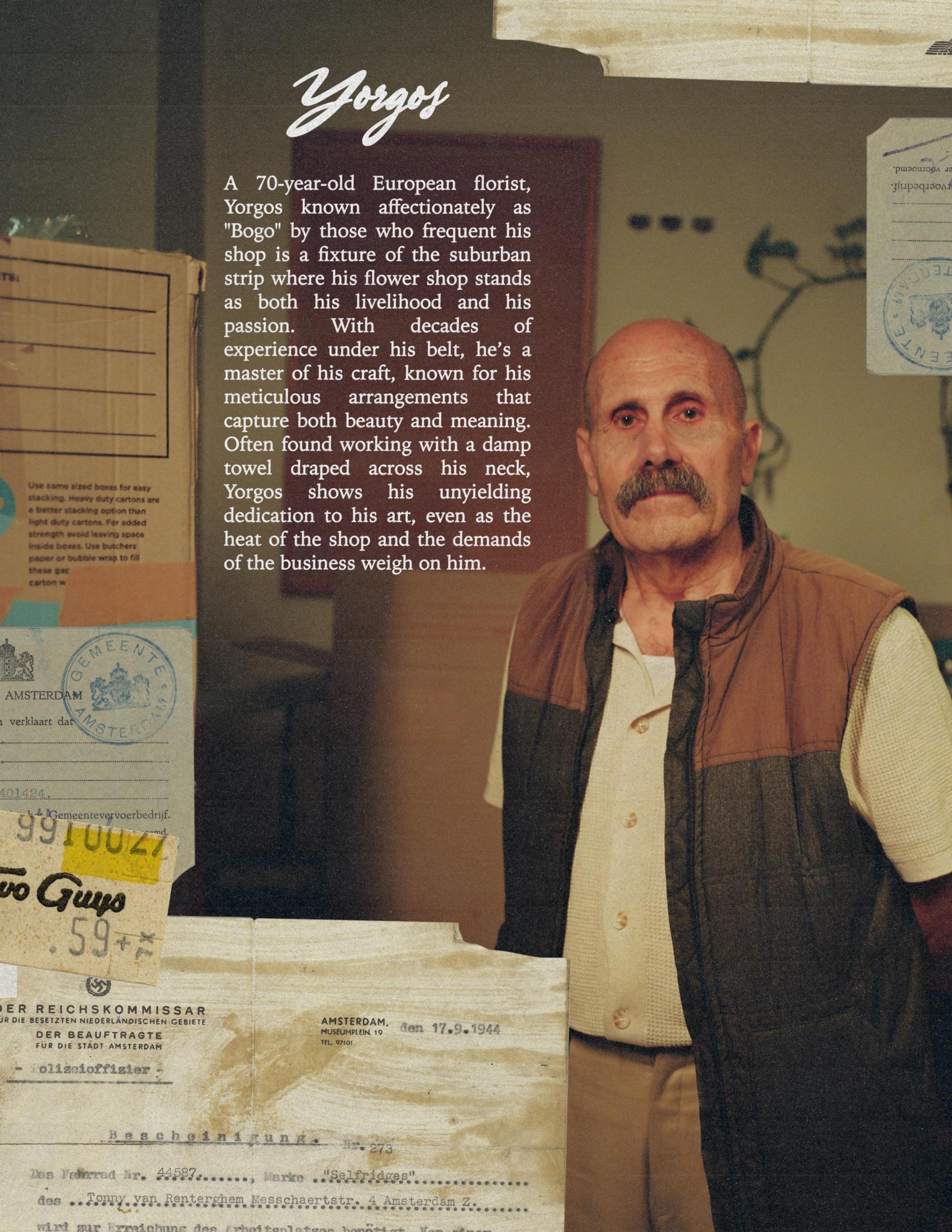
















Arsa

Yrsa, is a diligent and dependable employee at Azubuike's shoe store. She is deeply committed to her work, often managing sales records, restocking inventory, and stepping in wherever needed. Her dynamic with Azubuike extends beyond professionalism, as she is both a trusted employee and a supportive friend.

However, Yrsa's loyalty is tested when the shop's financial struggles lead to her unexpected dismissal. This decision deeply impacts her, revealing her emotional investment in the store and her feelings of betrayal and frustration. Despite her resilience, the situation highlights her vulnerability and the challenges faced by those reliant on unstable small businesses.

Yrsa's character embodies dedication, perseverance, and the emotional toll of professional setbacks, making her a poignant representation of the human side of economic hardships.











OBINNA WAITS IN THE CAR, LIBERTY SCARES HIM AND ENTERS THE CAR







- AZUBUIKE AND EDWARD TAKE IT OUTSIDE. KIDS WITNESS THE CONFRONTATION.







NSP

NONE SCRIPTED PROPS SCENE

- FIGHT ENSUES







- SHOCKED!

- FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH

_ UPSET, FRUSTRATED
BY EDWARD & COMMUNITY



- KIDS SEE AZU WALK AWAY

_ LOSS OF TRUST OR FANTH

Film Osells

robert connolly
liz kearney
kate laurie
loani arman
edward rickards

director of photography gabriel francis

production designer irany turral

costume designer ntombi moyo

makeup & hair designer banan mahmoud

> editor mark atkin ase

original score by nicholas todarello

production manager allanah avalon

first assistant director hayden mustica

script supervisor ranima montes

gaffer hamish palmer with the

key grip tyler harvey

sound recordist bruce armstrong

sound designer livia ruzic keith thomas

production coordinator robert harrison

production secretary ashira allotey

production assistant/runner lara martinez

production accountant imelda mullahy

accounts assistant kylie mascord

second assistant director sameed rabbani third assistant director yardonas embaye

additional ads tom athan gena furze victoria blinks brodie rake

Film Credits

art director sam gan

with the state of the state of

set decorator helena abapo

props master clara cruz jose

standby props alfonso jose coronel

> art assistants sandra githinji raphaela lochert

> > art runner jimmy mitchell

renee alonzo
linda chen
maggie guo
dakota hull
renee kypriotis
briana mcgeary
hannah mcintosh
gano papiti
annika rigg
anna ross
bella salvatore
athina wilson

first assistant camera
drew collins
second assistant camera
neha shenvi
georgia stewart

best person caitlin bryan

lighting assistant bree horwood

lighting assistant/grip swing coco mata

additional lx
audrey bosito
gianluca intemerato
george husband
liam harrington
lachlan stump

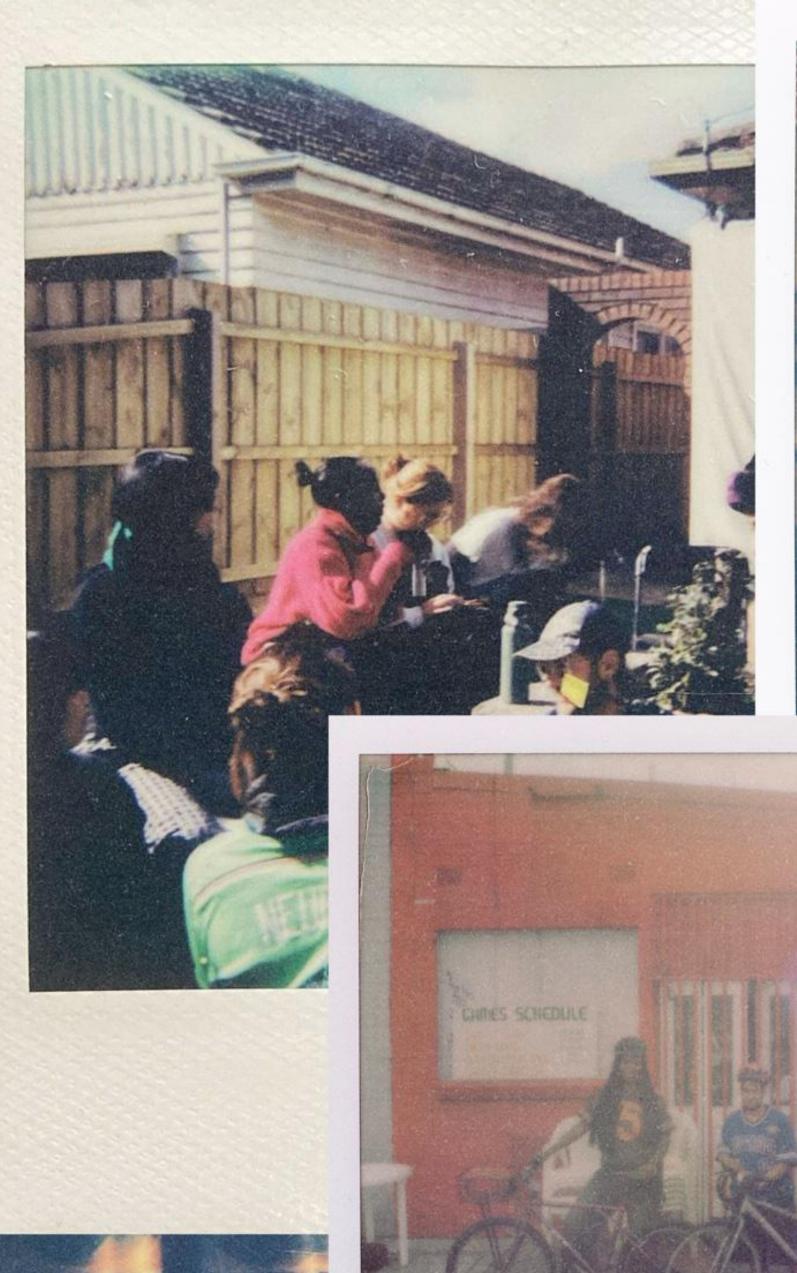
grip assistants will nikakis brendan mascuch

boom operator tim smith joe nowicki

additional boom operator jan wong

locations manager james romeril

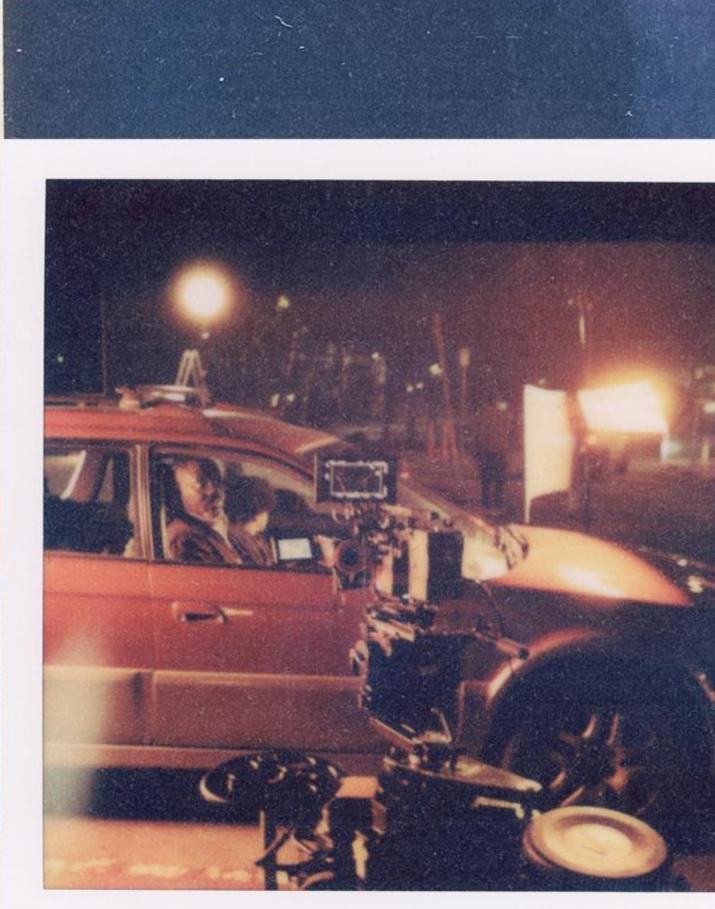
locations assistant tom hughes



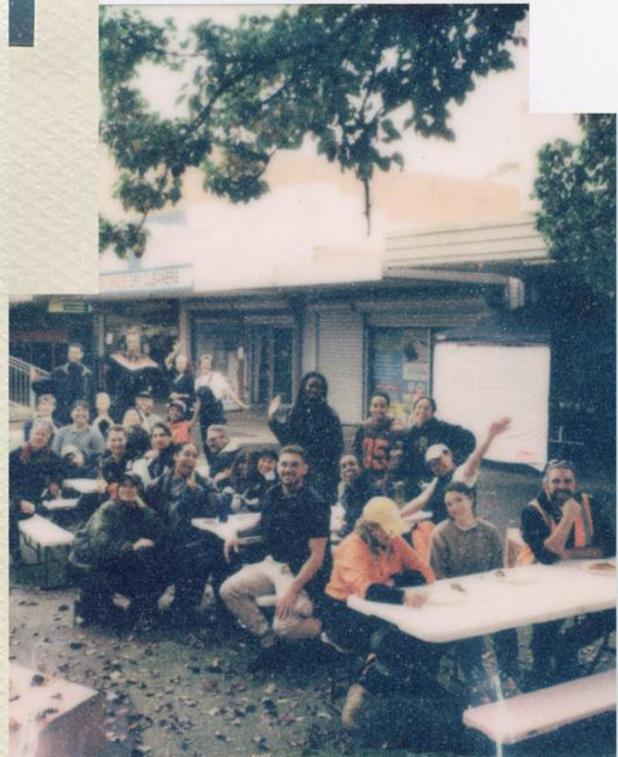














Film Prestits

costume supervisor aleisha whitson

standby costume sophie magasiva

costume assistant joy gikonyo

ella bell
emma gillet
laura hyland
makanaka mujokoto
amara ozougwu
joy ramzy
bianca scott
ingrid sofer
melissa van dartel

hair and make up assistants beth tamiru wendy nguyen shanice chuku

> <u>barber</u> biftu gudina

hair stylist agata saka

yusra abdulalim nisal atapattu isobel boekeman roxanne canedo zarah garbrah unit manager gispa walstab my water

unit assistants georgina bright

safety supervisor lana williams

on set nurse georgina clark

stunt coordinator chris anderson

casting kalu oji

extras casting sofia viegas

casting assistants ivana brehas maureen oluigbo



Film Prestits

pat verducci angeli macfarlane ranima montes dozie ezigbalike

with the state of the state of

vfx producer rachael cook

first assistant editor brianna freckleton vfx supervisor mark robert dickson

post production facility blue post vfx artist joel fletcher

managing director peter millington

vfx artist marcus herrick

post production producer

audio post facility
alchemy audio post production

fiona fry

sound post supervisor keith thomas

post production coordinator sara levy

re-recording mixer keith thomas

marcus hopton smith csi

dialogue editor justine angus

finishing editor marcus herrick conform editor emma black

effects editor livia ruzic

qc supervisor ben denbrave

foley artist john simpson

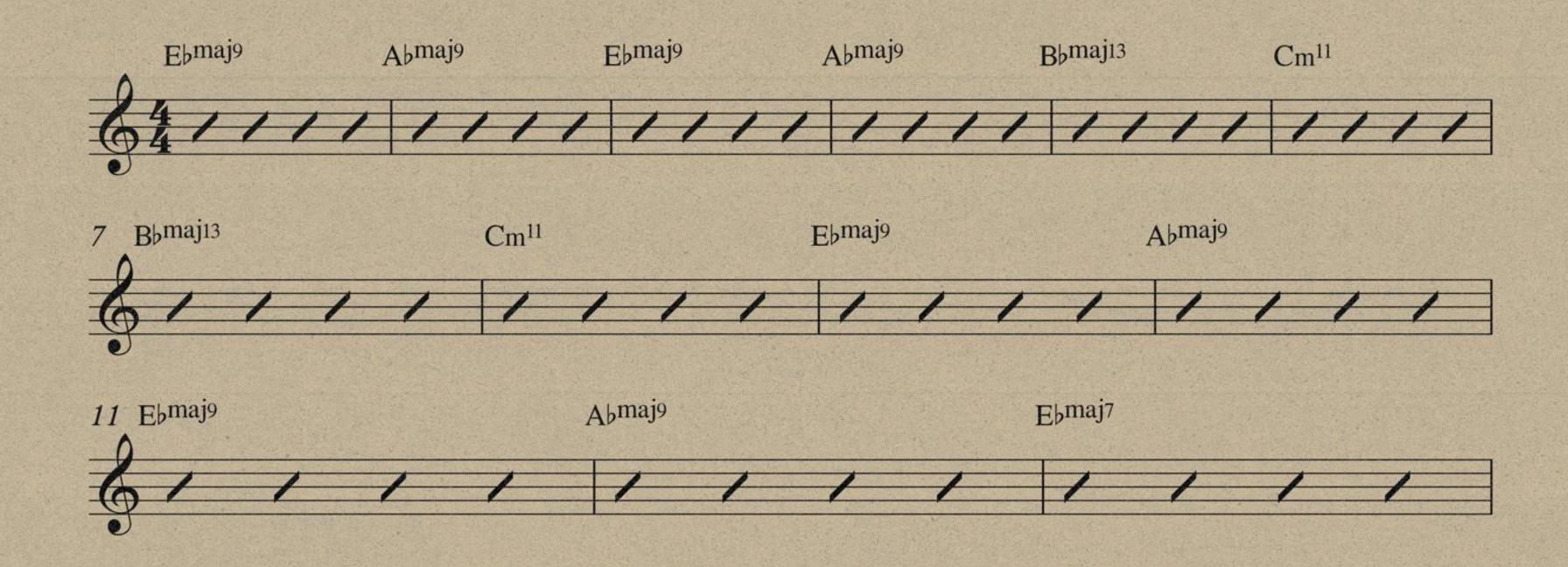
datacine technician ben buckingham

foley engineer caitlin drew

avid support neil wood

sound editing gus threlfalle

1m8(Chicken & Rice)





Onicholastodarellomusic

Film Prestits

music supervisor laura bell

assistant music supervisor chayenne van den hazel

musicians

guitarist callum mcdonald

bassoonist matthew kneale

> clarinetist jorja withall

flautist naomi bruhn

recording engineer jordan daniel cc/ad create media access mal taylor

post production script reezy miller script services

onset igbo translators tino iheme adanma williams nnenwogo miracle okereke

key art/publicity photography john m. tubera

behind the scenes claire guiffre

additional bts irfaan aboubacar SHOES I





All PASA FAHO assets & materials are available at www.tendays.film/pasafahoepk

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